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Application No.: 09/976,946
Office Action Dated: September 10, 2003

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

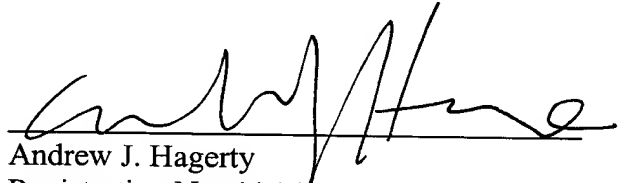
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 25-27 and 29-31 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 1, 5, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Barnett et al. and the Butterweck paper taken in combination. Applicant has canceled these claims, thereby obviating the rejection.

The office action indicates that claims 29-31 are allowed. The dependency of each of claims 25-27 has been changed from claim 24 to allowed claim 31. Thus, claims 25-27 and 29-31 are in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Date: October 7, 2003


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